GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1106
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2007
TELEPHONE CALL RATES
Fanthome Shri Francis;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism to regulate the cost of local telephone calls;

(b) if so, whether the telephone operators are threatening to raise local call rates;

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government proposes to regulate local telephone call rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)/Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) proposes to further reduce the call charges of STD and ISD; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Yes, Sir. The regulation of all tariffs for telecommunication services in the country has been entrusted under the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 to TRAI.

(b) TRAI has not received any communication from the telephone operators threatening to raise local call rates. However, the operatiors have the flexibility to fix any tariffs, subject to the regulatory principles laid down by the TRAI.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

(f) No, Sir. There is no such proposal at present.

(g) Does not arise in view of (f) above.